| .1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10. II. | Uturaactel Wot Bengal | Shiva Tcapfc. Lak IUMMW. *Dial.* Dehradaa UhlTcyk Complci. Kabn *mm.* Bardwaa. | Uau MaheskwM (IWO) Md Mahaatar Mardani Idol of Gopal | 24ta-25ia -do- Fcbnnry, 2001 25lh Aagutt.Recovered 2001 | | |

**Delhi as Tourist Friendly City**

3019. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that tourists visit only in a holistic perspective;

(b) whether it is also a fact that we are lagging behind in inflow of tourists and even smaller countries arc much ahead of us;

(c) if so, what arc the figures of tourist inflow during the last three years; and

(d) what steps arc being taken to make Delhi a tourist-fricndly-city especially for foreigners?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes; by and large.

(b) During the year 2000, India received less number of tourists as compared to the countries like Japan, Korea, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia.

(c) 2.36 million, 2.48 million and 2.64 million foreign tourists visited India in 1998, 1999 and 2000 respectively.

(d) Various steps taken by the Government to make Delhi a tourist friendly city include installation of signages at important monuments, installation of Touch Screen Kiosks to get ready access *to* information at various tourist places and installation of tourist guidance system "HARK" at Red Fort. A project on "Remote Presence" to enable a tourist to have a complete video view as seen from the top of the Qutub Minar has also been completed Festivals

such as Shalimar festival, Qutub Festival and Garden Festival are also organised regularly.

**Dissemination of Indian Culture Abroad**

3020. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken, so far, by Government to disseminate the traditional and ancient art and culture of the country outside India; and

(b) the details of the NRIs who have come forward to enter into the venture of dissemination of culture abroad?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Culture has been pursuing an active policy of bilateral cultural cooperation with other countries with the objective of renewing and strengthening cultural links and with a view to project India's Culture abroad. However, one of the objectives of the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under Ministry of External Affairs' is to promote greater awareness of India's cultural heritage abroad. Towards this end, the Council has set up and maintains 14 cultural centres which are functioning under the overall policy guidelines of the Indian Missions in the respective countries.

(b) There are a number of NRIs and Indian Associations abroad who undertake dissemination of Indian culture at their own initiative, not necessarily involving our Missions abroad. Such details are not available with the Government.

**Impact on tourism due to De-Freeze of LTC**

3021. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether domestic tourism has been adversely affected in view of freeze of LTC for Government employees; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to convince the Ministry of Personnel to de-freeze LTC for Government employees to boost tourism?